

REMARKS

Summary Of The Office Action & Formalities

Claims 1-27 are all the claims pending in the application.

Submitted herewith is a Petition for Extension of Time with fee.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing the references listed on form PTO/SB/08 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 16, 2003.

The Examiner is kindly requested to update the attorney docket number from “CNH0001” to “A8677”, which is the current attorney docket number used by the undersigned representative for this application.

The prior art rejections are summarized as follows:

1. Claims 11, 12, 14, and 16-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Redekop et al (USP 5,482,508).
2. Claims 13, 15, 26, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redekop et al (USP 5,482,508), in view of Linn (USP 4,292,795) and/or Wickham (USP 4,046,488).

Claims 1-10 are allowed.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

1. Claims 11, 12, 14, And 16-25 In View Of Redekop et al (USP 5,482,508).

On December 15, 2003, Applicant filed a statement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.607 identifying claims 11-27 as corresponding exactly or substantially to issued claims 1-17 of U.S. Patent 6,478,674.

In the present Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 11 as being anticipated by the U.S. Patent 5,482,508 on the same basis that the Examiner *initially* rejected original claim 1 of the '674 patent application during prosecution of that application. Present claim 11 is identical to claim 1 of '674 patent. See "Identification of Claims in Accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.607(c)," filed on December 16, 2003. In particular, in rejecting independent claim 11 of the present application, the Examiner restates the following position:

each of at least some of the blade members including a blade formed from a flat strip which has a substantially planar mounting portion mounted on the hub member to lie in a radial plane of the hub member (21 or 43) an intermediate portion (from ref 44 to 42 on fig 4) and a substantially planar blade portion (50) wherein the strip is twisted or bent within the intermediate portion about a line longitudinal of the strip (as shown in fig 4) such that one side edge of the blade portion lies in a radial plane offset axially from a radial plane containing the other of the side edges of the blade portion (as best shown on fig 4, ref 50 being one plane having side edge 39 or 42 which is offset from the other edge 33);

Office Action at page 3. Cf. '674 Patent Application, Office Action of January 16, 2002 at page 5.

In the '674 patent application, Redekop successfully traversed the Examiner's rejection on the basis set forth in his Amendment of July 16, 2002. A copy of the Examiner's January 16,

Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/705,664

Attorney Docket No.: A8677

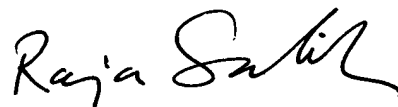
2002 Office Action and Redekop's Amendment of July 16 are included herewith as Attachments A and B.

Accordingly, to the extent the Examiner was persuaded to allow claim 1 of the '674 patent over the '508 patent, the Examiner should withdraw the rejection of claim 11 as well as claims 12-27, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 11.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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